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HANDKERCHIEF TRICKS

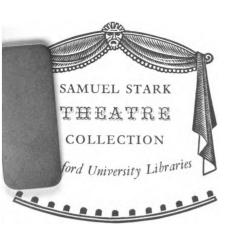


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GILBERT HANDKERCHIEF TRICKS

FOR BOYS

PROVIDES INSTRUCTION IN TRICKS MADE FAMOUS
BY WELL-KNOWN ARTISTS AND FURNISHES
A NOVEL ENTERTAINMENT FOR
ANY PROGRAM

ALFRED C. GILBERT
Yale University, 1909

Published by
THE A. C. GILBERT COMPANY
NEW HAVEN, CONN.

New York Chicago San Francisco Toronto London

FOREWORD

How often have you admired the magician who was able to produce some very startling and wonderful effects with handkerchiefs? Haven't you heard people remark, "It can't be done," yet right before your very eyes you saw a white handkerchief changed to a red one, with lightning rapidity. You saw three handkerchiefs appear where only one was shown previously. There is no denying that magicians are clever people. With very few movements of the hands they accomplish some mighty puzzling results.

Now wouldn't you like to possess the same ability the great artists have to entertain and mystify your friends? You can, with a very little practice. This book gives you a thorough explanation of famous handkerchief tricks. It exposes many of the secrets the professional sleight of hand man knows in a way that makes it easy for you to give some intensely interesting and fascinating performances.

Doing these tricks will provide you with a new kind of fun. You will be able to entertain your friends at home as you have never been able to do before. And what a crackerjack way to spend an evening — with a whole lot of pleasure to yourself and those you are with. It won't be a dull evening, you can be sure of that. Not only that, but you should soon be able to give entertainments for lodges, churches and clubs where you can earn con siderable spending money.

Read this book carefully and then try the easiest ones first. Don't try to do all of them at once and I'm sure you'll find these Handkerchief Tricks the kind of fun you want—real fun for a real boy.

Sincerely yours,

A.C.Giller

MANUAL OF HANDKERCHIEF TRICKS

To really be a leader in any profession nowadays requires specialization, and the magician of today is not far behind the professional man. In olden days a conjurer or magician generally gave a performance consisting of sleight of hand, miscellaneous tricks and illusions, but today our great sleight of hand performers are specialists in some particular sort of magic.

First, there was Nelson T. Downs, the King of Coins, whose entire evening's entertainment consisted of tricks with coins. He spent the largest part of his life in doing sleight of hand, devoting his entire attention to tricks with coins. Then came Howard Thurston, the King of Cards, who gave an entire evening's entertainment with cards, holding audiences spellbound by his mystifying tricks with an ordinary deck of cards. And last, we had the famous Stillwell, who had, probably, the most beautiful specialty act of its kind, purely with Handkerchief Tricks.

It might be a matter of interest to my readers to know that magic was a hobby with me from the time I was a boy. I made it a hobby the same as some boys make collecting stamps a hobby. I became acquainted with professional magicians and conjurers and once had the opportunity of assisting Herman the Great in doing some tricks in a theatre in Salem, Oregon. He afterward showed me simple tricks and started me on the way to learn the secrets of the world's greatest magicians. In later years, I established a business and supplied the leading conjurers with the secrets and apparatus for doing all the best tricks. I

had a store in New York, one in Philadelphia, and another in Chicago. I catered to the leading amateurs and professionals, and was in this way brought in contact with the best known professionals, supplying them with new things, as well as building tricks from their ideas. I thereby gained a reputation for knowing quite accurately how every trick was done. My knowledge of and experience in magic permits me to write this book devoted to the very best Handkerchief Tricks that have ever been performed. If any boy will have patience enough to practice them faithfully by himself in front of a mirror, until he becomes thoroughly familiar with them, he will never regret the time spent. It will be a great source of satisfaction and fun to be able to duplicate the tricks of the greatest magicians in your entertainments at home or in giving shows to earn money. It is not intended, in writing this book about Handkerchief Tricks, to assume that it is absolutely necessary to give a whole evening's entertainment on Handkerchief Tricks, nor is it intended that you should do every one of them. These tricks can be used in conjunction with the other magic tricks to make a fine evening's entertainment. For those who would like to give one evening to Handkerchief Tricks, they will find a large assortment of very clever and fine tricks described suitable for his need.

PRACTICE

If you try to do a trick before an audience without first knowing it thoroughly, you will lose the whole effect of the trick, and it is liable to be spoiled. Practice, practice, practice—patience, patience; this much is demanded of you before you can ever become a successful magic entertainer. It is really hard work to be able to familiarize yourself so well that you can do tricks as if by second nature; to achieve that point of self-confidence which is the foundation of good sleight of hand

performances do not forget that half the fun is in practicing the tricks. You have all heard the saying, "The quickness of the hand deceives the eye." Nothing could be further from the truth, because you should not move your hand so rapidly that the eye cannot follow it. In fact, you should never make any quick motion, because it will always arouse suspicion. The thing to remember is to be absolutely calm and deliberate.

MISDIRECTION

Misdirection is the foundation of real sleight of hand performing. It is misdirection and not the quickness of the hand that deceives the eye. The thing to acquire is the habit of looking in the direction you want the audience to look. That is, if you give the audience the idea that you are placing something in your left hand, look at the left hand all the time and follow your left hand. Of course the object is really in your right hand as you have palmed it off, but you have misdirected attention by looking at your left. You will find that when you have acquired this habit the audience will look where you look. Patience and self-confidence are required to attain this degree of cleverness which is absolutely essential in successful conjuring.

IMPORTANT WARNING

Never tell your audience what you intend to do before you do it; because, if they know what is coming, most of the effect is lost and they will find out more quickly how the trick was done.

IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG

You should learn the tricks so well that nothing will go wrong, though accidents will happen even with the best of professionals. The thing to do is to turn it into a joke; do not become confused. For instance, if you drop a coin in doing

a coin trick, simply remark that you dropped it to prove that it was real.

ESSENTIAL APPARATUS FOR AN EVENING'S ENTER-TAINMENT WITH HANDKERCHIEF TRICKS

A Handkerchief Stand (see Figure 1). Take an ordinary musician's stand; take off the top and have a rod attached across it with a little servante (pocket), which holds the fake. Place the handkerchiefs as illustrated. (See Figure 2.)

If you really wish to make a sort of stage setting, as Stillwell did, you should have two of these stands, one on each side of the stage with a table in the center. The servante should be concealed behind a few handkerchiefs that are thrown carelessly over the cross-piece of the stand. A good assortment of fine Japanese silk handkerchiefs in various colors, about 12 by 12 inches, is necessary.

Before the performance starts, it is necessary to prepare certain fakes (a fake

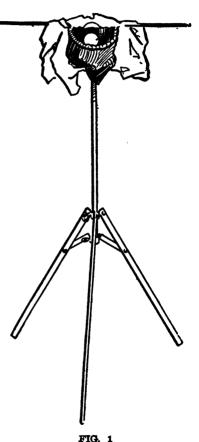
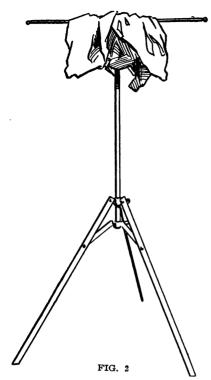


FIG.



a round metal ball, flesh color, with a large hole in one side. In doing this trick a blue handkerchief is tucked into the ball, leaving the corner protruding; then twist (do not knot) the corner of a white handkerchief around the corner of the blue and tuck it into the

is a hollow ball for holding the handkerchiefs) and have them all ready for your use. Have them placed on the table or in the servante on the handkerchief stand before the show begins. describing the Handkerchief Tricks, we tell you how each trick is performed, and vou will understand that they are all prepared and in their right place ready for the entertainment before it begins.

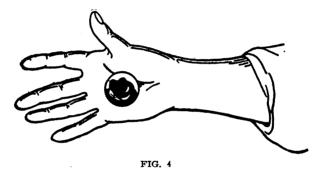
THE OPENING TRICK

Effect. Producing three handkerchiefs, a red, a white and a blue, from hands that have been shown apparently empty. Take a handkerchief fake (see Figure 3) which is



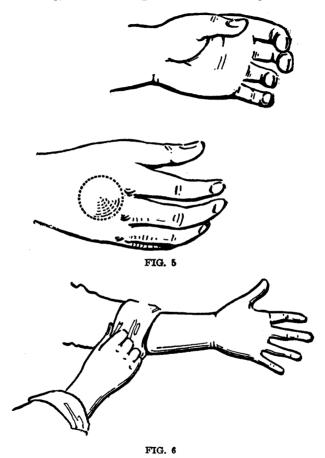
FIG. 3

fake; then taking the red handkerchief twist a corner around the white corner which protrudes and tuck it in until you leave just a slight point of the red handkerchief protruding. The object in curling the tips of the handkerchiefs around one another is to remove one handkerchief quickly, so that it will pull the next one out where it is ready to grasp. After you do this a few times, you will find out how simple it is. When you come on the stage, you conceal this fake in the palm of the right hand. (Note palming. See Figure 4.) A little practice will enable you to



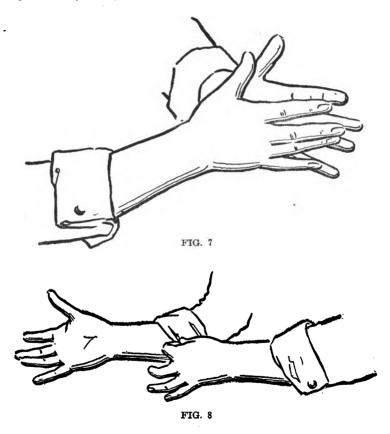
hold the hand perfectly natural, so that no one will imagine you are holding anything in your hand. You approach from the right hand side of the stage. I recommend that you hold your hands down by your sides in a perfectly natural manner with the palms turned in, and the fingers slightly closed. (See Figure 5.) You now appear before the audience keeping the right side of the body toward the people. You show your left hand, palm open, facing the audience. Take the thumb and first finger of your right hand and pull the sleeve of your left hand up to show the back and front of the left hand to be empty. (See Figure 6.) Now you do the "change over," that is you slowly change the left side of your body to the audience, placing the palms of your

hands one against the other as in clapping them, and roll the fake from the palm of the right hand into the palm of the left.



(See Figure 7.) Then with the thumb and finger of the left hand you pull the sleeve of the right arm back, and show the right

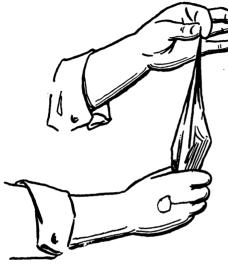
hand front and back to be empty. (See Figure 8.) This act of changing back and forth, known as the "change over," is very simple after you try it a number of times; because the fake can



be changed from one hand to the other, in a slow rolling movement, in a perfectly natural manner, changing the position of the body slowly and naturally. It is impossible to see the fake, as it has a flesh color tint over it; and even though you stand very close to people they are not apt to discover it, if you practice

the trick carefully.

Now, after palming the fake in your left hand, you turn and show your right hand; then palm it in your right and show your left once again. Now this should leave the fake with the opening and the tip of the blue hand-



kerchief slightly protruding in your right palm.

FIG. 9

The next move is to take the thumb and the first finger of the left hand, reach down into the palm of the right, take the corner of the handkerchief protruding from the right hand which holds the fake and pull it downward, which releases the handkerchief in full view. (See Figure 9.) Next, with the right hand still



FIG. 10



FIG. 11

back of the left hand so it faces the audience. (See Figure 12.) Grasp the handkerchief that is hanging in full view from the left hand, turn it over and stroke it down two or three times, showing the right hand now to be empty. (See Figure 13.) In this move the fake has been transferred from the right hand into the left hand.

Important. Read this through carefully, following the movements

holding the fake palmed. take the handkerchief from between the thumb and first finger of the left hand and bring it between the first and second fingers; that is. hang it over the back of the three lower fingers. (See Figure 10.) Now stroke the handkerchief with the right hand, which is holding the fake in a perfectly natural manner, and on the upward movement place the fake into the palm of the left hand. (See Figure 11.) At the same instant turn the





FIG. 18

the left hand; hold the fake in the left palm, and continue to stroke the handkerchief, showing the front and back of the right hand to be On one of the empty. strokes, which start very near to the other hand. drop the fake into the right hand behind the handker-

with the fake and handkerchief as mentioned, because the importance of the whole performance of this part of the entertainment consists in this clever sleight of hand movement which was invented and performed with international success and fame by Mr. Stillwell.

Now stroke the handkerchief which is hanging from

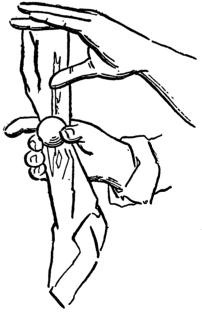


FIG. 14

chief which is hanging over the index finger of the left hand. (See Figure 14.) The view shown in the illustration is the one you get. The audience obtains the opposite view. When you drop the handkerchief you continue to stroke it as before. Now you have transferred the fake to the right hand. You now turn the left hand toward the audience, still holding the handkerchief in the same position between the first and second fingers. (See Figure 10.) You are now where you started with the fake in the palm of the right hand. Take the protruding point of the white handkerchief from the palm of the right hand and bring out the second handkerchief, your right side all the time facing the audience. You proceed in exactly the same manner, releasing the second handkerchief and repeating the operations just as described until the three handkerchiefs have been produced. Show your right hand and then your left hand to be empty in the manner already described.

This is a very spectacular and pretty act if nicely done and properly practiced. Do not be afraid because you think the description sounds hard. I have taught this to many boys who have learned it in a short time and performed it with wonderful success.

However, you have not yet finished the trick because you are left with the fake still in your right hand, and the three hand-kerchiefs. You have to get rid of the fake, and this is done in a very simple and deceptive manner. You go over to the hand-kerchief stand which is on your left and in the act of dropping the three handkerchiefs over it, fuss around the stand a little bit. While placing the handkerchiefs on the stand, you drop the fake into the servante behind the other handkerchiefs that are hiding it. While doing this you take the second fake, which we will call No. 2 and which is concealed in the little pocket inside the servante.

This fake has in it three silk handkerchiefs which have been H-1

placed there all together. They must be tucked in very tightly, and you will be surprised to find that three handkerchiefs, which seem to take up so much space, can be so easily tucked into one

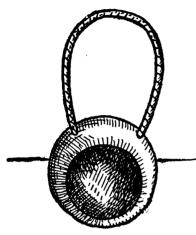


FIG. 15

I have seen of these fakes. four of the very finest quality silk handkerchiefs put into one of these fakes. This fake not only has a large hole in it but has two small holes through which a piece of horse hair or cat-gut is tied in the form of a loop. (See Figure 15.) This loop is for the purpose of concealing the fake on the back of the hand, and should be sticking up over the fake as it lies in the pocket of the servante. so that when you drop the other fake, after having pro-

duced the red, white and blue handkerchiefs, you take the thumb of the right hand and pass it through the loop, picking up the

fake containing the new set of handkerchiefs.

After you have tried this once you will find out how easily the fake can be held, and even persons very close to you cannot detect the horse hair. Again, standing with your right side toward the audience and the back of

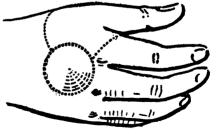
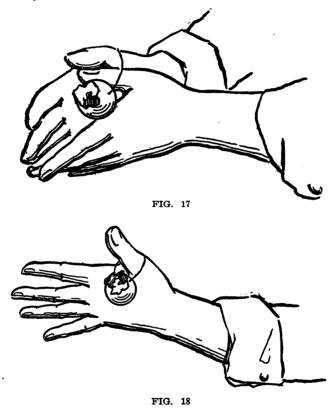


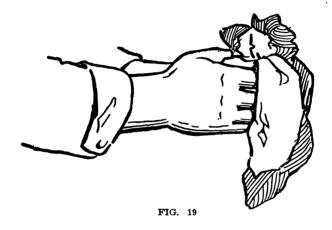
FIG. 16

the right hand facing in that direction, you hold the fake suspended upon the thumb, with the cat-gut loop in position as in

Figure 16. Now, once again, you reach forward, showing the left hand to be empty; a little pull on the sleeve with the right hand and you show the left hand front and back. You now take



the left hand, which is facing the audience, and bring it toward the right hand which is holding the fake as though you were going to clap them together, palm against palm. Then you take the thumb of the left hand and put it through the loop, transferring the fake from the right onto the back of the left hand (see Figure 17) where it now hangs concealed. Back view is not seen by audience. (See Figure 18.) You can now face the audience showing the palms of both hands to be absolutely empty, being careful not to turn the back of the left hand so that it can be seen by the audience. You now once again approach the left hand with the right, turning around so that you



can get the fake between the two hands; and then, holding them in a position as though you were catching a ball, you gradually work the handkerchiefs out of the fake all together (see Figure 19), making a very astonishing effect, the idea being to produce a variety of colors. This enables you to start your performance, having produced a number of silk handkerchiefs. This last trick with cat-gut loop on the fake must be practiced before a mirror so that it will become second nature to you to do it. It may seem very difficult for you to do. However, I have seen a number of boys do the trick with unusual success and after careful practice they were never detected. It has been done most suc-

cessfully by the leading conjurers in all parts of the world, and it will be well worth your time and patience to try this because it makes a beautiful introduction to an evening's entertainment with handkerchiefs. However, if you do not care for these tricks, you can start in

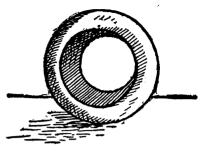
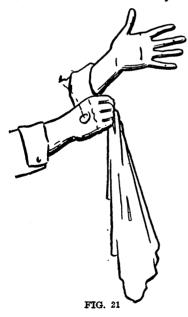


FIG. 20

with the more mechanical tricks which we will describe later.

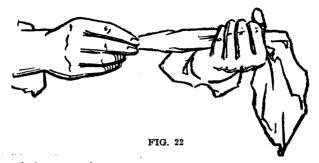
DYEING A HANDKERCHIEF

This trick is worked by means of a little fake having two



holes in it, as illustrated in Figure 20. In this fake is inserted one of the silk handkerchiefs (blue) and the fake is then put on the table or in one of the pockets of the servante which is concealed by handkerchief back of the stand. You now explain that you are going to select a handkerchief. You go over to the stand and pick up a handkerchief (red), and at the same time the little fake. Conceal it in the palm of the right hand, holding the handkerchief between the thumb and first finger of the same hand. Show the left hand front and

back. (See Figure 21.) Now you stroke the handkerchief with the left hand (see Figure 22), still holding the fake in the right.



On one of these strokes you simply drop the little fake into the palm of the left hand. Change your position directly around so that the left side of your body faces the audience. Pull the handkerchief once more through the left hand, which is closed, holding the fake in the inside of it, the back of the hand facing the audience: but on the last stroke do not pull the handkerchief through the hand. clear Holding on to the handkerchief which hangs down you now take the tip of it (see Figure 23) between thumb and finger of the right hand and bring it up

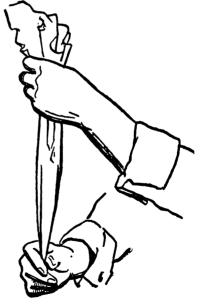


FIG. 26

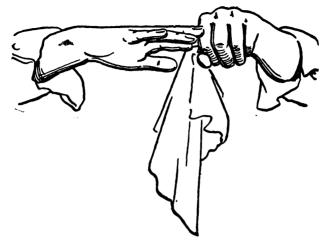
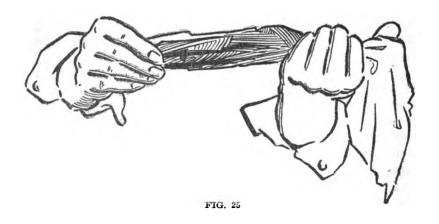


FIG. 24

and around so as to tuck it into the other side of the closed fist. Now face the audience with the back of the hand toward them



and tuck the red handkerchief into one end of the fake. (See Figure 24.) Next turn the left hand directly over so that the fake is facing you (see Figure 25), the handkerchief hanging down on the other side, and draw the blue handkerchief little

by little out of the fake. This leaves one end hanging down, so tuck the red handkerchief in a little more, turning the hand over each time you tuck and pull it. Pull a little of the blue out, tuck a little of the red in and so on, until the blue is clear out where you can hold



it firmly with the little finger against the palm of your hand. Turn the hand holding the fake over, with the back of your hand toward your face, and tuck the red handkerchief into the fake with the index finger. In this act of tucking in you first use the index finger, then the second finger, repeating this tucking or pushing operation several times; so that the audience will not detect when you transfer the fake from the left hand into the right. This is

the important part of the trick, for in one of the tucking motions the second finger grasps the fake and places it into the palm of the right hand. (See Figure 26.) The move is shown in position to clearly illustrate method of transfer. In reality the back of right hand conceals this movement. This leaves the handkerchief, the color of which has been changed, hanging from the left hand with the fist closed. You now turn your hand over again, swinging your body around so that your right side faces the audience. You turn the hand over, not opening it as yet. The audience will be under the impression that you still have the red handkerchief in your left hand, whereas it has been transferred to your right hand. You now take the tip of the handkerchief which is hanging from the left hand and you pull it out, keeping your eye on the left hand. The audience will keep their eyes where you direct them.

Now is the psychological moment of the trick. Everyone wants to see that hand open. They think the handkerchief is in it. Now slowly open the fingers, one by one, starting with the little finger, and show it to be empty. Then go over to the handkerchief stand and lay the handkerchief across the bar, dropping the fake into the servante. This is one of the best handkerchief tricks that has ever been done. Although simple, it will always get you a good hand if done neatly and deftly. Again we emphasize the importance of following up the movements of the fake as you read the directions, otherwise it will appear impossible to understand the trick. Then you should practice in front of a mirror, and you will soon be able to do the trick with astonishing results.

The next trick is The Conjurer as a Dyer.

THE CONJURER AS A DYER

Insert the three colored handkerchiefs one at a time in a round metal tube, putting in at last one white handkerchief. Then drive two stout pins in the rear edge of the table and on these lay the metal tube which, although directly below the rear edge of the table, is entirely concealed from the audience. On the table or chair, have lying three white handkerchiefs and a sheet of rather stiff paper of about 7x10 inches in size. First pick up the paper, and after freely showing it again, place it near the rear edge of the table or over the back of the chair. Then hold up the three handkerchiefs, lay them down and pick up the paper again and behind it, unknown to the audience, the metal tube. Proceed to roll the paper into the form of a cylinder, the operation being facilitated by the metal tube. When done, pick up the first white handkerchief and insert it partly into the lower end of the paper cylinder, then taking the wand push it in entirely. This pushes the other white handkerchief out of the upper end of the tube and paper, thus apparently demonstrating that the white handkerchief has passed clear through the tube. Take this handkerchief again and insert it in the lower end of the tube and this time it changes into a red handkerchief in the act of passing through. The next white handkerchief, by a similar process, is changed into a yellow one, and the last into a blue one. As the last blue handkerchief is held up and shown, the other hand holds the paper cylinder in such a manner that its lower end rests against the rear edge of the table or back of the chair. A slight relaxation of pressure allows the metal tube to slide out of the paper into a bag or box of sawdust concealed behind the table. The conjurer can now unroll the paper and show it to be empty.

Some performers make the paper tube first, and then show it empty, after which the metal tube is loaded into the paper one.

This is accomplished by having the metal tube concealed under one of the white handkerchiefs and, in the act of picking up the latter and inserting it into the lower end of the paper cylinder, the metal tube is inserted first under cover of the white handkerchief, the trick then proceeding as already described.



THE HANDKERCHIEF VANISHER

The Handkerchief Vanisher or "Pull," as it is sometimes called, is a very useful piece of magical apparatus, enabling the performer to cause a handkerchief to disappear from his hands. It consists of a small metal cup to which a piece of black elastic cord is attached.

Thread the end of the elastic through the belt strap of the trousers directly over the pocket on the right side and pass it around the back until the "Pull" is brought up close to the body. Tie the end of the elastic to a button on the left side. This leaves the "Pull" hanging from the belt strap (see Figure 27) on the right side, hidden from view by the coat.

To cause the handkerchief to disappear, stand with the left side towards the audience, holding the handkerchief in the left hand and calling the audience's attention to it. While you are doing this you have an opportunity to get hold of the "Pull" with your right hand. When this is done, turn sharply around towards the audience so that your right side is now towards them. You still have the handkerchief in your left hand. The right hand closed around the "Pull" (with its back towards the

audience) is held in front of the body, the elastic being stretched out to its full length and being hidden from view by the right forearm. Now push the handkerchief completely into the "Pull" and release it. Of course it will instantly fly beneath the coat and out of sight. Keep your right hand closed as though it still contained the handkerchief, at the same time move both hands away from your body. This gives the spectators the impression that you are still holding the handkerchief. Then open your hand, showing it entirely empty. Practice this several times in front of a mirror before showing the trick to an audience. If there are no belt straps on your trousers, a small ring sewn directly over the pocket will answer the purpose.

THE MIRROR GLASS

This is a simple piece of apparatus which can be easily made and is very effective. Take an ordinary prism glass tumbler.

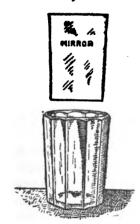


FIG. 28

(See Figure 28.) Cut a piece of mirror to fit inside of the glass and place inside as shown in the illustration.

Now, to the audience, it looks as though the glass is entirely empty; it is very deceiving and no one will ever imagine there is anything in it. In back of the mirror you can conceal any number of handkerchiefs you desire. Now cover the glass over with a handkerchief, wave your wand over it and pronounce the words "Mysto Magic"; as you lift the handkerchief off you lift the mirror also and disclose the handkerchiefs. It is a very effective production and

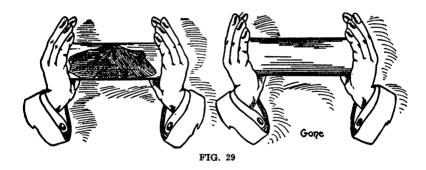
quite pretty and startling.

Many other combinations can be worked up with the mirror

glass to suit your fancy, and you will enjoy it very much because it is simple to do. You will not have to worry about its working successfully.

THE DISAPPEARING HANDKERCHIEF FROM A LAMP CHIMNEY

I consider this one of the best handkerchief tricks ever invented. It has a decided feature over most tricks in that it can be done right in front of the eyes of the audience, whereas most changes are made when the object is concealed. Here is a trick



where you tell them you are going to vanish something right in front of their eyes. No one will ever guess the secret if the trick is done well. Some of the best magicians use this trick when they first come on the stage and it really is very effective.

The Effect. You exhibit an ordinary glass lamp chimney or one of the mica kinds that you buy in the 5 and 10 cent stores. Any glass tube will do (see Figure 29) or anything that is transparent, about 6 or 8 inches long and 1½ or 2 inches in diameter. You exhibit this tube and an ordinary handkerchief which, holding in your right hand, you tuck into the tube. Hold the tube between the palms of the hands in

front of you. Now, with the magic words, "Mysto Magic," the handkerchief will disappear right in front of the eyes of the audience.

The Secret. There is no fake about the lamp chimney. There is no fake about the handkerchief, except that to the center of it you tie a stout cord which you run up the sleeve of the right arm and across your back, attaching it above the elbow of the left arm. When it is attached and your arms are released, hold it so that the handkerchief will be under the right sleeve. Now you can pull the handkerchief down to the tips of the fingers of the right hand, holding your arms so that the handkerchief will be in full view. This enables you to tuck it into the chimney in a perfectly natural way. The cord cannot be seen by the audience. Of course you must have the handkerchief in your hand before you start the trick; in other words you must pull it out of your sleeve unnoticed. Now, by giving the chimney a forward push the cord will be shortened and the handkerchief will disappear.

If you will practice this a few times you can make the handkerchief disappear so neatly that it will not be detected.

This is a difficult trick to explain, but if you will follow the directions about attaching the cord across your body, as already described, you will find it comparatively simple and easy.

HERMAN'S VANISHING KNOTS

This is one of Alexander Herman's favorite tricks and with a little practice you can make a big success of it like he did. It does not require any fake handkerchiefs; everything can be passed for examination. Although I do not give magical entertainments very often, I can always do this trick without much practice after once getting the secret of it. I do not mean that you should not practice, because practice is the thing that

will give you self-confidence. Never try to do a trick in front of anyone until you have practiced it.

The Effect. You go into the audience and ask someone to tie two handkerchiefs together at the ends. Then you take the handkerchiefs out of their hands and draw the knots tighter; asking someone else to tie another knot, take them



FIG. 30

back and tighten them. Then you fold the knots inside the handkerchiefs and blow on them, drop them, and they fall apart. You can have three or four handkerchiefs tied together, which is still more effective, with the same results.

How the Trick Is Worked. Take two ordinary silk handkerchiefs, twisting them rope fashion. Now you ask one of the audience to tie the ends together. After tying them together you can say "Oh, they are not tight enough" and you give them another pull, giving the impression that you are pulling them still tighter. You do this after each knot is made; and as many as three can be tied with perfect safety if you are thoroughly familiar with the trick. (See Figure 30.)

What You Do. After the audience has tied the knot and you are supposed to be tightening the knot, you really straighten one end of the handkerchief by grasping it above and below the knot; the result of this being that you pull the end of one of the handkerchiefs out of its knotted condition into a straight line, although the other end of the handkerchief remains tight and twisted. In reality, you are converting the knot into a slipknot. After the next knot is tied you straighten the same end of the handkerchief in the same way. All you have to keep in mind is to keep the one handkerchief straight and pull the same one straight each time. Try this while reading the directions, and you will soon see how simple it is. Another thing to remember in pulling this into a slipknot is that one end is left longer than the other, because the other is twisted around and around the straight end. You can get around this very easily by drawing it partially back through the slipknot every time you are supposed to be tightening the knots.

To Do the Trick. Now cover over the knots with the left hand, holding the straightened portion of the handkerchief immediately behind the knots between the first finger and thumb of the right hand. In doing so, that is when covering over the knots, you draw the straightened portion completely out of the slipknot.

We have simply described here the trick as performed with two handkerchiefs, but we would suggest that you do it as Herman did, because it is much more baffling by allowing a number of handkerchiefs to be tied together in this way. When tying a number of knots, you can use an excuse for examining each knot, asking each one, "What kind of a knot did you tie?" This gives you an opportunity to make the slipknot as already described.

Be On Your Guard. There is only one thing that is likely to fool you in this trick, and if you are on your guard you will

not be fooled. Some people, in tying handkerchiefs together, are apt to lay the two handkerchiefs side by side and tie them into a single knot. This happens very seldom and may be avoided by holding the two ends to be tied wide apart, so that they cannot be drawn parallel. If, even with this precaution, the audience ties such a knot, we would not recommend trying to stop them, because that is not good business in a magical performance. The thing to do is what Alexander Herman would do. Simply say, "Ladies and gentlemen, you should all be satisfied that these are regular knots. I will ask someone to untie them to satisfy himself that they are fair, and also to show you how long it takes to untie a knot." You can then pass it on to someone else to re-tie it.

STRETCHING A HANDKERCHIEF

Effect. Take an ordinary handkerchief, which you exhibit, and then twist it rope fashion. You can borrow one from the audience or use your own. A good patter to use is that the handkerchief is not large enough for you, so you are going to lengthen it out. Take the two opposite corners and twist them ropewise, and then begin to stretch it out.

Effect. It seems to grow longer and longer until it appears twice as large as it was at first.

Trick. This is really an optical illusion. Few people actually realize how small a handkerchief is straight across, that is diagonally. Say you take a handkerchief that is about 24x24 inches, which is a nice size for doing the trick effectively. This handkerchief is about 2 feet 10 inches straight across. Now, by stretching it the right way, you can stretch it to over 3 feet. In twisting the handkerchief you get a few inches of slack in each hand. By simply throwing the handkerchief over and

over, the same as skipping a rope, you keep making this movement, at the same time releasing a little from each hand. To the spectator, the handkerchief grows longer and longer; in fact longer than it would seem possible to make a handkerchief such as you exhibited before you started. When you have finished, hold in the tips of the fingers the remaining end so that the whole handkerchief is seen.

This direction may sound silly, but all you have to do is to practice this a few times in front of the mirror and then try it on some of your friends. You will find that it is a dandy trick. I always follow this trick with the Knotting Handker-chiefs, which works nicely in conjunction with the above.

THE INSTANTLY KNOTTED HANDKERCHIEFS

After having demonstrated to the audience the simplicity of

untying knots by magic, then show them how easy it is for a magician to knot a handkerchief. You simply take two handkerchiefs, show them separately and give them a little wave with the hand; they are seen to become knotted. They are then rolled into a ball and thrown on the floor, where they become separated.

Explanation. The secret of the trick is a little rubber band. The rubber band is held encircling the thumb and first two fingers of the right hand. (See Figure 31.) When you pick the two handkerchiefs up with the left hand, one H-3



FIG. 81

is placed inside the rubber band between the thumb and two fingers of the right hand and then the second handkerchief is likewise transferred alongside of the other where they are held together in the hand. Now, by simply bending all three fingers, the elastic band will slip over the ends of the handkerchief, which appear to be knotted. The rubber band is so small that it will never be noticed. Now you roll them together, release the knot and they come apart.



FIG. 32

THE VANISHING RING FROM GOBLET OF WATER BY MEANS OF A HANDKERCHIEF

Effect. You borrow a wedding ring from the audience, place the handkerchief over the goblet of water, and then ask someone to hold the ring. At the word "drop" they drop it into the glass. They distinctly hear the ring fall into the glass tumbler of water. You pick the handkerchief from the glass and the ring has disappeared. It is found in some other object.

How the Trick Is Done. Take a white handkerchief and in the center of it tie a silk thread, to which is attached a wedding ring. Now you borrow a wedding ring from the audience, which you palm in your right hand. Holding up the handkerchief, grasp the ring on the string and hold it in the center. Place the handkerchief over the glass of water. When in this position you ask someone to come up and hold the ring, which is in the

handkerchief, and at the word "drop" to drop it into the water. They hear it drop into the water plainly. Of course you have palmed the real ring. In picking up the handkerchief from the glass the ring, which is on a thread, will also come up and the glass is empty.

By going back to your table the other ring can then be produced from the inside of a potato which you have there (see Figure 32) arranged as follows: Take a coring knife which is used for coring apples, and make a hole through the potato. Cork up the end with the piece you have taken out, and leave the cut end lying on the table, so that when you go back to the table you can drop the ring in the hole and then the potato, to all appearances, is an ordinary one.

You can now halve the potato with a knife and present the ring to its owner.

THE BURNT HANDKERCHIEF RESTORED

Effect. You borrow a handkerchief and then pass it for examination. You put it inside of the fist, letting a corner of it stick out. (See Figure 33.) You now set the handkerchief on fire; then you rub it with the palm of the hand and restore it.

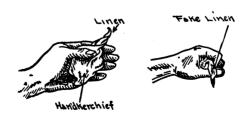


FIG. 33

Secret. Conceal in your left hand a small piece of cloth the same color as the borrowed handkerchief. It is better to use an old handkerchief so that it will be exactly like the handkerchief used. Now take the handkerchief by the center with the same hand; pull out between the thumb and forefinger to half its length the piece of cloth that you already have palmed or concealed. To the audience this appears to be the real handkerchief. It is to the piece of cloth that you set fire. Be sure, if you use a borrowed handkerchief, that it is well down in the hand before setting the fake piece on fire. When it has burned almost to the fist of the hand rub or blow out the fire first;

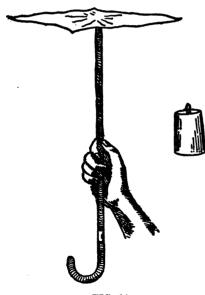


FIG. 34

then rub it out with the hand, concealing the burnt piece that is left in your hand. Now you can shake out the real handkerchief, vanishing the burnt piece in any way desired.

JUGGLING

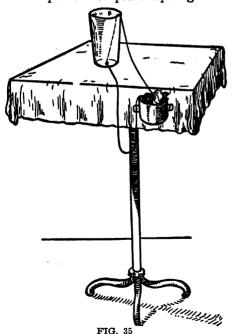
A little juggling sometimes fits in nicely with a magical performance of this kind. Everyone enjoys seeing a juggler spin a handkerchief on top of a walking stick or cane. This can be done as a side play.

Effect. You borrow a handkerchief and put it on

top of an ordinary walking stick or cane. The handkerchief can be made to spin around as illustrated. (See Figure 34.) Trick. The point of a needle is driven into the top of the cane, so in this case the cane must not be passed around for inspection. A better way, however, and one which permits you to pass the cane for inspection, is to get an ordinary ferrule that will fit onto the end of the cane and to this attach a point of a needle or pin. This can be concealed in the hand while the cane is being inspected.

PRODUCING A HANDKERCHIEF IN FULL VIEW FROM A GLASS

The performer picks up a glass which has been standing on



the table and pours some water into it to show that it is unprepared. The water is then poured out again and, holding the glass over the table, you say the words "Mysto Magic" and a handkerchief appears in the glass. You can step down into the audience and ask anyone to remove it.

How the Trick Is Worked. This is a very pretty trick. It requires the drilling of a small hole in the bottom of an ordinary tumbler. (See Figure 35.) A servante attached to the back of the

table contains a handkerchief, around which, in the center, is attached a thread. The thread runs from the handkerchief in the servante to the inside of the glass, then down through the hole back to the servante again, looping itself so that you have room to pick the tumbler up without disengaging the handkerchief.

When you pour in the water, cover over with one of your fingers the hole, which keeps the water from leaking out. There is enough slack in the string to allow you to pick up the glass without fear of detection.

Now all you have to do is to hold the glass over the table. You can give the thread a sharp pull and the handkerchief will be instantly thrown into the glass, breaking the thread off where it is attached to the handkerchief. A little practice will make the trick very effective and startling.

Note. If you have an assistant helping you, the thread can be run off the stage and pulled by someone outside. This makes the trick doubly effective.

HANDKERCHIEF CASETTE

Effect. A small tube, provided with a cover for each end is passed for examination. (See Figure 36.) A silk handkerchief is now placed inside and the tube closed. A second later the tube is opened and the handkerchief has vanished.

Secret. The apparatus consists of four pieces—a tube, two covers for the ends and a "Pull." The "Pull" must be placed on your person according to the directions given for HANDKER-CHIEF VANISHER (page 26). Start the trick by passing the metal tube and the two covers for examination. While the audience is examining them, get hold of the "Pull" and hold it in the right hand.

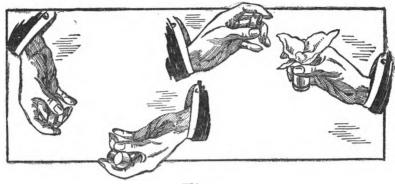


FIG. 36

In the same hand hold a small silk handkerchief so that the audience will not suspect that you have anything concealed. Then take back the metal tube and slip it down over the "Pull" into the hand. Bring the whole apparatus well away from the body and, taking the handkerchief, push it into the "Pull." When it is entirely out of sight, let the "Pull" fly back under your coat. Place the cover over the end of the tube and then reverse it (but do not show the inside of tube). Then put the cover on the other end. Hand the tube, which is now closed, to some spectator to hold. You now command the handkerchief to leave the tube and appear where you desire. We recommend using the drum-head tube with this trick.

DRUM HEAD TUBE

Effect. The conjurer exhibits a nickel-plated tube together with two metal bands which just fit over each end. He then seals up each end with tissue paper, making a sort of drum head over each end. He then causes a small handkerchief to disap-

pear from his hands. Upon breaking the paper on one end of the tube, the handkerchief is found inside.

Secret. The apparatus (see Figure 37) for this trick consists of five parts. First notice the construction. Secure two thin silk handkerchiefs identical in color. One of these you place in the black compartment and over the end of it you lay a piece of tissue paper. By placing the ring down over it you make a drum head. Notice, too, that its edges are not left protruding over the ring, but are torn off. Place the loaded compartment, pointed end up, on your table. The duplicate handkerchief is now placed in front of the black compartment so your audience will not notice it. Now pass the tube for examination and let your audience take two pieces of tissue paper (these should be the same color as the one you used in covering the black compartment) and have them make a "drum head" at each end of the tube. After this is done, call attention to the fact that nothing can enter the tube unless the paper is broken.

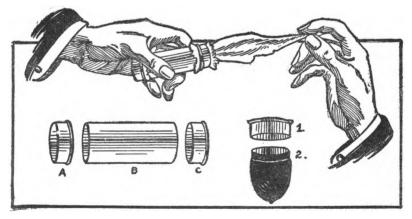


FIG. 37

Approach your table and pick up the handkerchief which lies in front of the compartment. Just before you do so, place the tube, either end down, over the pointed compartment. Now, the compartment containing the handkerchief is in the tube; still the ends of the tube can be shown to the audience and attention called to the fact that the papers have not been disturbed or broken, for the paper on the compartment containing the handkerchief replaced the broken paper on the end. Now vanish the handkerchief with the Handkerchief Vanisher or the Casette, as described in the preceding trick. Break the paper on the end containing the compartment and pull out the handkerchief.

This is really a wonderful trick and has been featured by some of the world's cleverest entertainers.

MAGIC FLAG IN CANDLE

The effect of this trick is quite startling and pretty. You commence with the introduction which shows that both hands are absolutely empty and, with your sleeves rolled up, that there is no chance of concealing anything about your hands. You now call attention to an ordinary candle that is in a candlestick holder on the table. You then light the candle, and, without touching it to your body in any way whatever you produce from the flame a beautiful silk flag. As mysteriously as it is produced it is vanished, and the hands again shown to be empty.

You now show an ordinary piece of wrapping paper or white paper to be absolutely empty and, taking the candle from the candlestick, you blow it out and wrap it up in the paper. You break the paper in a twisting fashion and, when this is done, instead of the candle being found inside the flag comes into view in a very startling and pretty manner, much to the delight of the audience; and as a final climax the candle is produced from the inside of your coat pocket lighted.

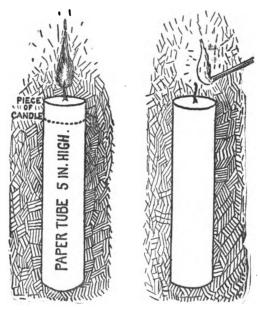


FIG. 38

Necessary Apparatus for the Trick

- 1. Two fine silk flags.
- 2. A safety match box.
- 3. Imitation candle (see Figure 38). The candle is made from white paper with a small part of a candle in the end or top, as shown in the illustration, and is held in place by melting some of the candle all around the opening before it is placed in it.

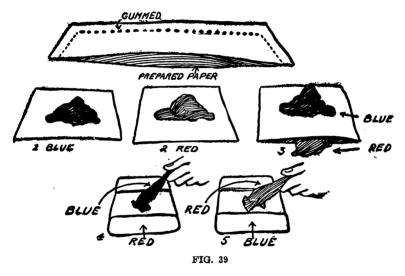
- 4. A regular candle the same length as the prepared one already described, with a match stuck down near the wick.
- 5. A piece of sandpaper sewed at the top of the inside coat pocket on which the match can be scratched later on when removing the candle from the inside pocket as the final part of the trick.

Preparation. Half open the safety match box and put into the end of it one of the flags. The other flag is concealed inside of the paper tube which represents a candle.

How the Trick Is Done. After your hands are shown to be absolutely empty you pick up the match box, take a match from it and light the candle. While closing the match box the flag is forced into the palm of the left hand. This enables you to produce the flag from the flame of the candle in an apparently mysterious manner. You now secure hold of the "Pull" under the left side of the coat and, while you are holding the flag in the right hand in a conspicuous manner in front of the audience, tell them that you are now going to vanish it and have it reappear in a most startling and surprising manner. This holds the attention of the audience to the flag while you are gaining possession of the "Pull" under your coat. This can be done in an easy manner without the least fear of detection. The flag is then rolled in the palm of your hand and vanished. You now pick up a piece of paper which you show to be absolutely empty and roll the candle into it, twisting the paper in such a way that it will break in the middle. This makes the flag spring into view. You then reach into the inside coat pocket and produce the real candle which can be lighted as described above, by scratching the match on the piece of sandpaper. If desired, you can place an ordinary wax match in the candle to take the place of the wick. Then place the candle back in the holder.

INVISIBLE FLIGHT OR COLOR CHANGING HANDKERCHIEFS

Effect. One red handkerchief is wrapped up in a piece of paper in full view of the audience and another colored handkerchief is wrapped in another piece of paper. You then call attention to the fact that the red handkerchief is on the right of you and the blue on the left. At a word of command the



paper is torn open, and instead of the red being on your right the blue handkerchief is found there and on the left is found the red. This is a very pretty little trick and requires no sleight of hand.

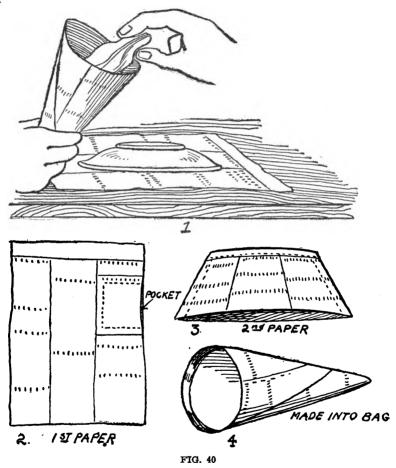
How It Is Done. You prepare for this trick by taking two pieces of paper, half a sheet of newspaper and glue them around on three sides. Then place the red handkerchief in between them (see Figure 39), and glue up the fourth side. Then take

two more pieces of paper and prepare them in the same manner with the blue handkerchief inside. These papers are to be lying carelessly on the table. When you are ready to perform the trick you take the red handkerchief and wrap it up inside of the piece of paper, with the blue on the inside. Be sure and mark the paper so that you will know what you are doing. You now take the paper with the red handkerchief inside of it and wrap up the blue handkerchief. Now at the word of command all you have to do is to break the paper which will release the handkerchief concealed therein. To all appearances the handkerchief has actually changed color. You can throw away the paper to one side and no one will suspect that the handkerchiefs you have wrapped up are still there.

AN EASY WAY TO VANISH A HANDKERCHIEF

Effect. The performer exhibits an ordinary soup plate. This can actually be passed for examination to show that it is unprepared. To particularly emphasize to the audience that there is no trick about the table, he places a sheet of paper on top of the bare table and on top of this he places the plate. He then turns the plate upside down. Next an ordinary colored silk handkerchief is shown. He then takes a sheet of newspaper and out of this he makes a cone. Into the cone he drops the handkerchief. He now tips the paper cone with the wand and upon the words "Mysto Magic" the handkerchief mysteriously and invisibly travels from the paper to the plate. Upon opening the cone the handkerchief has vanished, and when the plate is lifted the handkerchief appears

This is a real good trick, and is really two tricks in one. It has been performed by some of the best conjurers on the stage and requires so little sleight of hand that it works very effectively and can be worked very nicely with comparatively little practice.



How the Trick Is Done. Both papers are prepared for the trick. You take two pieces of newspaper or any paper for that

matter and glue them on three sides. (See Figure 40.) Leave one side open, making out of the paper a bag. From another piece of paper cut out a small piece the width of a column or two, say about 6 inches long, and paste this on three sides and then onto a half sheet of newspaper. In this way you form a pocket. (See Figure 40, No. 2.) The mouth of this opening is on the outside of the paper, and into this opening you put a silk handkerchief the same color as the one you are going to do the trick with.

Now, to perform the trick the conjurer carefully picks up the piece of paper in which the handkerchief is concealed, being careful that he grasps it so that his finger rests on the handkerchief concealed inside. At the same time he takes the plate in his right hand and, keeping his eyes on the plate and calling attention to the fact that it is an ordinary plate, he then remarks that he will place the paper under it to show that there is no mechanism about the table. As he does this the plate is transferred to the left hand, reversing it as he does so. This leaves him with the plate and paper in the left hand. Now by pulling the paper downward with the right hand, holding onto the plate and handkerchief with the left, the handkerchief will come out of the little pocket and lie concealed back of the plate in his hand. The bottom of the plate of course faces the audience, and the handkerchief is on the other side. He now lays the paper down on the table, and the plate and handkerchief which is now in the left hand he places on top of the paper. You will see how simple this is. No one will ever detect the possibility of the handkerchief being under the plate because only a second before you showed the plate unprepared, together with an ordinary newspaper.

That part of the trick is done. Now he takes the other sheet of newspaper which to all appearances is an ordinary sheet of newspaper, whereas it is a paper bag in reality, glued on three sides with an opening at the top. He twists this into a small cone, and in forming the cone the opening is to be on top so that when he drops the handkerchief into the cone it falls between the folds of the paper that form the bag. When the cone is opened and the paper held out to the audience the handkerchief is gone. The plate is lifted up and the handkerchief appears under the same.

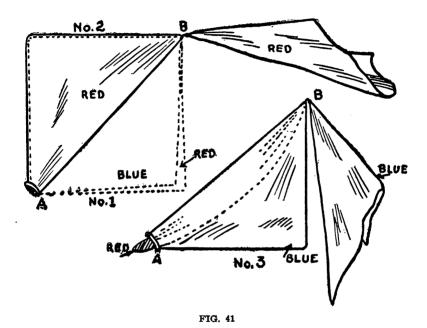
HANDKERCHIEF TRICKS YOU CAN MAKE YOURSELF

The following tricks are carefully selected from the best mechanical handkerchief tricks that have ever been performed on the stage. These are illustrated in such a way that it will enable vou to make up the mechanical tricks yourself and perform them. Most of the following experiments are tricks of comparatively late invention; that is, within the last few years. The majority of them have been performed at one time or another by the leading professional conjurers; some of them have never been described in book form and, to my knowledge, this is the first time that an explanation for manufacturing them has ever been given. If you were to purchase these tricks separately you would find that it would run into a good sum of money, but by purchasing the silks and getting them made up in your own home you will have in your possession some of the best handkerchief tricks ever invented at a comparatively small cost. In all the tricks bright colored Japanese silks from which to manufacture them are as suitable as anything. The first trick is the

GOLDEN COLOR CHANGE

Explanation for Making. A red and a blue handkerchief are placed together (see Figure 41, No. 1), after which they are sewed together to form a bag. A harness ring of metal being

sewed in at the opening A. The red handkerchief being now on the outside, tie or sew a single red handkerchief at B, after which turn the bag inside out at A through the ring. The blue handkerchief is now on the outside. Tie or sew a single blue



handkerchief at the same point B on the blue bag. You are now ready to perform the trick. In performing handkerchief tricks I have always used the Golden Color Change, named after the famous Horace Golden, and performed by him. I generally had the Golden Color Change handkerchief lying across the handkerchief stand before the entertainment started so that I could reach it at any time it was convenient or when it would fit into my performance best. Some performers concealed the

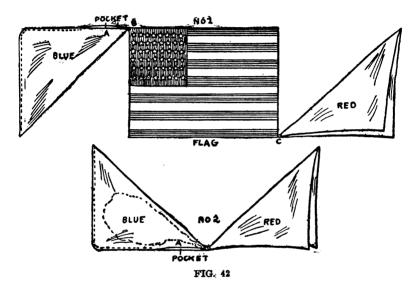
Golden Color Change back of the mirror glass and exhibited it as a conclusion to this trick. At any rate, after having exhibited the two handkerchiefs (what appears to be two handkerchiefs tied together) I remarked about my magic power to change the color of the handkerchiefs by simply rubbing my hands over them. The ring of the bag is held in the right hand between the thumb and the first finger. Then taking hold of the tip of the red handkerchief which protrudes through the ring, as in Figure 41, No. 3, draw the ring down and the handkerchief bag is turned inside out. A beautiful and instantaneous color changing effect is produced. The handkerchiefs are then thrown back over the stand and you are ready to proceed with another trick. The effect of the trick is very rapid and does not last long, but it is extremely startling and effective.

FLAG BETWEEN HANDKERCHIEFS

Explanation for Making. To make this trick a red, a blue handkerchief and a small flag are necessary. Take the blue handkerchief and fold it into a triangle, stitching two sides to form a bag. A small space is left unsewed, making a pocket A. (See Figure 42, No. 1.) A flag is now tied or sewed at B, after which the red handkerchief is tied or sewed at C. No. 2 shows the effect obtained after the flag is placed in the pocket, giving the audience the impression that the two handkerchiefs are tied together.

The Effect. You require for this trick the apparatus described above, one extra silk flag, the duplicate of the one sewed and inserted inside the bag, and a "Pull" for disappearing one of the flags. To commence the trick exhibit the two blue handkerchiefs in a perfectly natural way. Tie one of the handkerchiefs to the corner of the other (bag) before the eyes of the spectators and then roll the handkerchiefs up into a ball, either placing them in a glass tumbler or have someone hold them. Now

you take from your table the duplicate American flag and vanish it according to directions given in "The Handkerchief Vanisher." Now command the flag which has just vanished to appear between the other two handkerchiefs and immediately take hold of one corner of the blue handkerchief and one corner of the red.

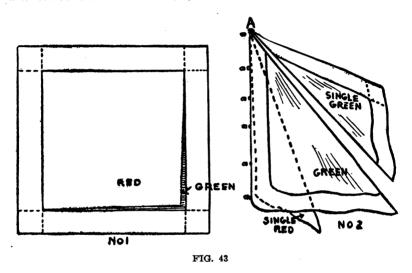


Give them a quick jerk, not only unrolling them but drawing the American flag out of the pocket of the blue handkerchief bag, making the handkerchiefs appear, as in Figure 42. This is one of the most effective handkerchief tricks ever performed and with comparatively little practice you will be pleased with the results.

Special Notice. In wrapping the two handkerchiefs up be sure and leave the two corners where they are easy to get at, so that when you pull them apart the flag will appear between them in one move,

THE CHAMELEON COLOR CHANGE

One red handkerchief and one green handkerchief are sewed together, a white border being stitched on the edge. (See Figure 43, No. 1.) Then they are folded together and caught in a number of places down one side (No. 2). Now assuming that the green is folded on the outside, a single green handkerchief with a white border is fastened at **A**. The double handkerchief is now



turned inside out, so that the red is on top and a single red handkerchief with white border stitched at A.

How to Perform It. See Figure 44, illustrating how the handkerchiefs are held in position. The single red handkerchief is represented by C. The double handkerchief with the red on the outside, B on the inside (the bag part is represented by B) and the single green handkerchief is represented by A. Now the handkerchiefs are held in the right hand by the corner A



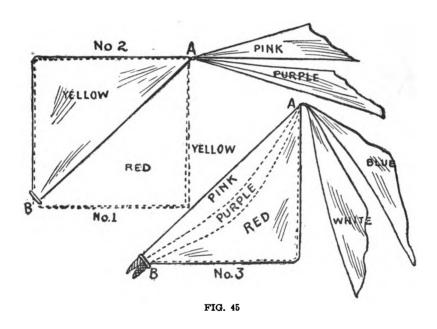
and B. By simply shaking them, continuing to hold on to A, B drops down over the sides turning inside out, covering the red handkerchief C and thereby converting what was to the audience two red handkerchiefs tied together with white borders into two green handkerchiefs, right before their eyes.

TRIPLE ALLIANCE

A red and a yellow handkerchief are placed together (See Figure 45, No. 1), after which they are folded over and sewed to form a bag, No. 2. An inch harness ring is sewed at a small slit or opening left at B. A pink and a purple handkerchief are now tied at A, after which the bag is turned inside out at B and a blue and white handkerchief tied at A. The effect is that the pink, purple and yellow handkerchiefs are turned into red, white and blue handkerchiefs.

The Trick Is Performed as Follows: The yellow, the pink and the purple handkerchiefs are exhibited. You hold the ring B, with the corners of the blue and white handkerchiefs just barely protruding, in the left hand. The extreme tip of the pink handkerchief is held in the right hand. The remaining single purple handkerchief is hanging down from the center, forming the letter T, the purple handkerchief being the perpendicular part. You now step into the audience and ask for an assistant and hand him the corner of the pink handkerchief to hold. You explain that by passing your hand over the handkerchief you will

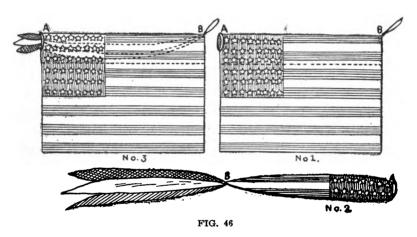
make all three of the handkerchiefs change colors instantly. You proceed by taking the right hand and grasping the ring, continuing to hold the protruding part of the blue hand-kerchief only. Make a full sweep across the horizontal part of the entire **T** until the ring reaches the finger of the assist-



ant holding the pink handkerchief, which you take out of his hand as you make this movement, jerking it away from him. The result of this manoeuver is that the white handkerchief drops down into the position where the purple handkerchief was; the pink handkerchief turns into red and the yellow handkerchief turns into blue.

BLENDO

Explanation for Making. Two American flags 12x18 inches are used to make this trick. One being cut so that half the field and stripes opposite are used. This is stitched to the whole flag to form a pocket. (See Figure 46, No. 1.) A harness ring is stitched at the opening A and a short piece of stiff cat-gut sewed on at B. The pocket thus made is turned inside out through the ring at A (see No. 2), and three handkerchiefs, a red, a white



and a blue, are now tied or sewed at B. Now by sliding the ring back, holding onto the cat-gut, you have No. 3, with hand-kerchiefs concealed in flag.

How to Perform the Trick. Put your second finger through the loop in cat-gut. Pull the ring back, holding on to the three handkerchiefs, the red, the white and the blue, turning the flag inside out. Now take the flag and roll it up into a ball, where it can be held in the palm of the hand. The corners of the red, the white and the blue handkerchiefs are held between the thumb and first finger; the flag itself concealed inside the palm. The ring in the flag should be held in a position where it will drop down over the handkerchiefs when the flag is released from the palm of the hand by giving the hand a shake; the weight of the ring will carry the flag down over the three handkerchiefs, changing them into an American flag.

VALADON FLAG TRICK

The Effect. Three pieces of tissue paper, one red, one white and one blue, should be secured and these are held in the right hand. Twist them into a knot. These are lighted with a match. The light is then extinguished with the left hand and three beautiful ribbons, a red, a white and a blue, apparently burst forth from the ashes. The performer then gathers the ribbons up in his hands and, as a climax, transforms them into a large and beautiful American flag.

Explanation for Making. The following material is necessary and prepared as follows: Get some red, some white and some blue tissue paper cut into three pieces, 7x4 inches; three strips of ribbon, 3/4 inches wide, 2½ yards long, one red, one white and one blue. At the end of each ribbon sew on a piece of wire the same width as the ribbon. Make a metal holder shaped as in Figure 47, No. 1, about 3 inches long bent up to shape. Fasten the ends of each one of the ribbons to the holder as illustrated and roll the ribbons up so that they are held in position. Lastly, an American flag 24x36 inches, with a curtain ring attached to two of the corners and two weights sewed to the opposite corners. The holder, with the ribbons held in position, is placed into a match box half open (see No. 2) and laid upon the table so that the open end of the match box holding the fake is not visible to the spectators. This is laid next to the squares of tissue paper. Next the flag is folded as follows, after having

been prepared as already described. Spread it upon the table and pleat it in four-inch folds, first the long way, as an accordion is pleated. Then fold it up from the bottom in four-inch folds. This gives you a four-inch package which should be perfectly flat, with the two curtain rings on one side and the weights

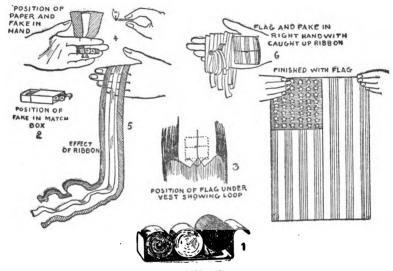


FIG. 47

on the opposite. With the parcel prepared in this way, attach to the black thread which secures it a fine black wire, $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 inches in diameter and as near the color of the clothing as possible. Such a piece of wire can be purchased from any hardware store for 5 or 10 cents a spool. The parcel is now concealed under the vest as in No. 3, with wire loop protruding just where the vest is buttoned, and bent outward so that it is easy to grasp when required in performing the trick. You are now ready to perform the illusion.

First you exhibit the three squares of tissue paper, calling attention to the fact that your hands are empty with the exception of the tissue paper. After having done this, you twist the bottom edges of the paper up. This twist is held between the second and third fingers (of course the back of the hand is toward the audience). The rest of the paper is thrown across the back of the hand. Now you proceed to the table, keeping the paper in full view of the audience, and, picking up the match box which we have described as lying on the table partly opened with the fake concealed therein, you pick up a match and at the same time the fake, which you hold between the first and second fingers.

Note. Be sure and bend the fake so it fits your fingers neatly. You light the match on the side of the box, which gives you an excuse for having the box there, and with it the edges of the paper hanging over the hand are lighted. The box is then closed and thrown to one side. The tissue paper is now burning slowly (see No. 4). Allow it to burn down to the fingers, when it is then smothered out by the left hand. Giving the right hand a sharp quick half turn, the ribbons will be released and thrown out over the back of the hand (see No. 5), giving the appearance that they have been magically created from the ashes of the paper. Now the remains of the tissue paper can be dropped to the floor unobserved. With the left hand you now proceed to gather up the ribbons into the right hand, just as you would pull in a rope, say 8 or 10-inch lengths, the left hand grasping the vest at about the waist line in this move. While you gather up the ribbons in this way, it gives you an excellent opportunity to allow the thumb of the right hand to enter the loop in the flag under the vest in a perfectly natural movement. The flag can thus be withdrawn unobserved from under the vest. It is hardly necessary to say here again that it is important not to allow your eyes to look at the vest to see how the

work is progressing, because if you look down at the vest the audience will naturally do the same and the trick will be exposed. Make the moves slowly and accurately, never quickly; because under cover of drawing the ribbon in you have plenty of time to withdraw the flag from the vest. After all the ribbons have been gathered up into as small a parcel as possible, so that you are sure of being able to conceal them in the hand, the next move is to break the thread securing the flag, slipping each one of the curtain rings over the thumb of each hand. Now all you have to do is to spread the arms apart, and the weights that have been sewed in the flag will immediately drop down, and with the ribbons concealed in the palm of the right hand they can be easily dropped out of sight in the back of the flag, or rolled up in the flag itself after displaying it.

Careful practice is necessary before performing this trick so as to know just how to go about it. The trick was performed with immense success night after night by the famous Valadon, the English magician, who traveled with Kellar throughout the United States. It is considered by many magicians as the greatest flag trick ever presented.

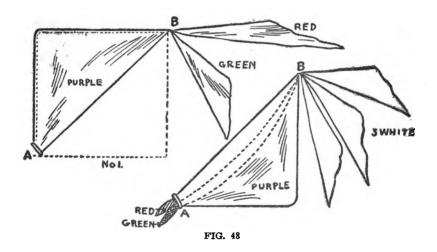
CHANGING THREE SILK HANDKERCHIEFS INTO DIFFERENT COLORS

Explanation for Making. After you have reviewed the method of manufacturing "Blendo" it will facilitate your understanding the preparation and manufacture of this trick which is almost identical.

You prepare the handkerchiefs as follows:

A handkerchief is folded and stitched to form a bag (see Figure 48, No. 1) and a harness ring is sewed at A, which is a slit in the bag. A red and a green handkerchief are now sewed or tied at B, after which the bag is turned inside out through the

ring and three white handkerchiefs are tied at the point marked **B.** Reverse the back, pulling it over the white handkerchiefs. Put your second finger through the cat-gut loop. Take hold of the tips of the three protruding white handkerchiefs in the left hand, drawing the ring back over them, still leaving the cat-gut loop in place over the base of the second finger.



Now do all three colored handkerchiefs up in a little bundle in the palm of the right hand, the ring in position where the knots in the three white handkerchiefs are tied together. By dropping the ring and vigorously shaking it, at the same time releasing all the handkerchiefs in the palm of the hand, the bag, owing to the weight of the ring, gathers in the three white handkerchiefs, giving the impression that they have turned to entirely different colors.

HOW TO VANISH THINGS FROM HANDKERCHIEFS

The following are a few simple and effective little tricks that can be worked into most any part of a magic handkerchief program.

They are not strictly handkerchief tricks but so far as your audience is concerned they will appreciate them as such. They are so simple to perform that I consider them worth while describing,

THE INVISIBLE HEN

Effect. The performer exhibits a handkerchief which he folds double, and holds by the corners over a borrowed hat. After shaking the handkerchief for a few seconds, an egg is seen to drop from it into the hat. Once more the handkerchief is shown

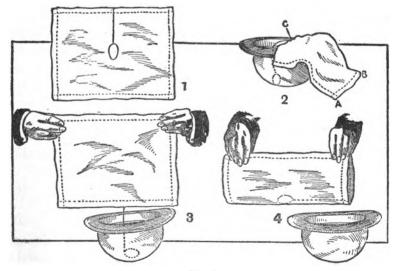


FIG. 49

unmistakably empty, and another egg is produced in the same mysterious manner. This is repeated until three or more eggs have been produced. Finally the hat apparently containing several eggs is given back to its owner, and to his astonishment, he finds it empty, for the eggs have entirely disappeared.

Secret. The handkerchief used in the trick should have a black silk thread attached to the center of one of its edges. To the other end is affixed an imitation egg so that when the handkerchief is held in position (shown in Figure 49), the egg comes to about the center of the handkerchief. Before presenting the trick, place the handkerchief upon the table, so that the egg is concealed in its fold. Now place the borrowed hat upon the table, crown up, beside the handkerchief. Pick up the handkerchief, and drop it over the edge of the hat, so that the egg goes inside the hat as shown in (2). Now pick up the corners of the handkerchief (A and B in 2) and hold it up, showing it on both sides. The egg, of course, remains in the hat. (See 3.) Now let the handkerchief back to its former position on the hat (2). When you pick it up this time, do so by grasping the handkerchief at the point where the thread is attached (C in 2) with the left hand and the two corners in the right hand, holding the handkerchief double, so that the egg is inside. Now, hold the handkerchief over the hat as in (4). By tilting the handkerchief slightly and at the same time shaking it, the egg will drop out into the hat. The black thread is invisible at a short distance. By repeating the moves described above the handkerchief can be shown repeatedly empty, and any number of eggs apparently produced. Finally, when the trick is finished, if desired, the thread can be pulled from the handkerchief, which together with the egg can be dropped behind some object on your table and then both handkerchief and hat can be passed for examination.

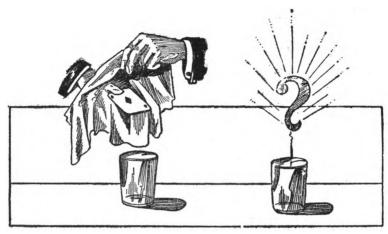


FIG. 50

VANISHING CARD FROM HANDKERCHIEF

The success of this splendid trick depends upon the celluloid trick card which, if placed in an ordinary drinking glass, is invisible when viewed from a short distance. Any card is selected and the performer places it in the glass in front of the celluloid card, calling attention to the fact that the card is perfectly visible. He withdraws it, at the same time removing the celluloid card concealed behind it. A borrowed handkerchief is now placed over both. Under cover of the handkerchief the celluloid card is pushed up with the right thumb. The left hand now holds under the cover of the handkerchief what the audience believes to be the card, and taking it to the glass, it is held over it. The right hand is now removed from under the handkerchief, first having palmed the real card. This appears perfectly natural as the left hand is apparently holding the card covered by the handkerchief (celluloid card gives the form of the playing card). It is now placed in the glass. The handkerchief is removed and the card has vanished. (See Figure 50.) Really it is palmed in the right hand and can be reproduced from the performer's pocket, or in any other manner desired. Follow these directions closely with a card and the celluloid in your hands and practice the moves so as to perform them easily and naturally.

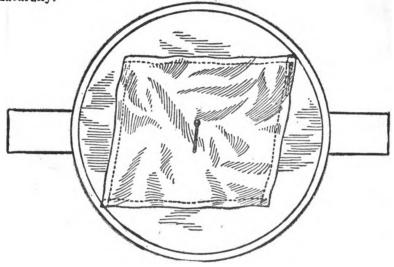
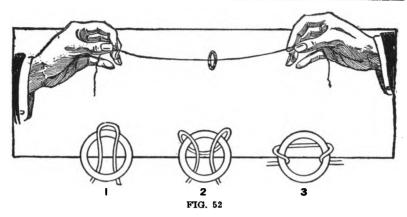


FIG. 51

MATCH IN HANDKERCHIEF

A match is laid upon the center of a handkerchief. (See Figure 51.) The handkerchief is then gathered up around the match, and some one is requested to break the match through the handkerchief. This is done, but when the handkerchief is unfolded the match is found to be unbroken.

This pretty effect is accomplished by a duplicate match, which has previously been inserted in the border of the hand-kerchief—in the hem. The duplicate is the one broken.



REMOVING RING FROM STRING UNDER HANDKER-CHIEF

Effect. A small ring is passed for examination, after which it is threaded on a string, the ends of which are held by a spectator. While the ends are being firmly held the ring is covered with a borrowed handkerchief, under cover of which the conjurer makes it possible to remove the ring entirely. The ring can be thoroughly examined and is found to be without preparation.

Secret. Two rings, exactly alike, are required to perform the trick. The string should be about two feet long. Have the duplicate ring concealed in your right hand before the trick begins. Now, have one of the audience thread the ring onto the string and have him hold the ends. Throw the handkerchief over the ring and under cover of the handkerchief you grasp the ring that is actually on the string in the left hand, covering it. Now take the duplicate ring, which has been concealed in the right hand, and place it on the string as follows: Tell the spectator to give you plenty of slack. Pull the string through the duplicate ring. (See Figure 52, No. 1.) The string being pulled through H = 5

the ring as in No. 1, pass it over the ring (No. 2) until it eventually assumes the appearance shown in No. 3. The performer now requests some one to remove the handkerchief and, just as it is being done, the left hand (in which, it will be remembered, the original ring is) is slid along the string toward the spectator's right hand and the performer indicating as well as inviting the spectator to free his hands, so that the performer is now holding the string. The spectator is now requested to remove the ring himself, which of course he can easily do.

The success of the trick depends upon this move, which is a perfectly natural one.

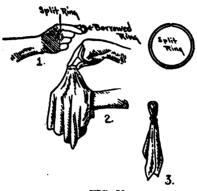
PASSING A RING THROUGH A HANDKERCHIEF

This is a very effective parlor or pocket trick and can be worked nicely on a small stage.

Effect. You borrow a ring, place it under a handkerchief, and have a member of the audience tie a string around it. You throw another handkerchief over it, allowing them to remove the handkerchief. They will find, later, that the cord is still tied tightly, but the ring has disappeared. It will be found in some other place, as desired.

How the Trick Is Done. A substitute ring is required, or a round piece of wire the same size as the ring. This is cut, the points sharpened and put into the shape of a brad. You have this substitute ring concealed in your right hand. You now borrow a ring which you appear to place in the handkerchief, but you really put in it the substitute ring. This substitution is very simple. You lay the ring in the palm of the hand with which you palmed the fake ring and, taking the latter, you place it in the handkerchief. It now appears that you are holding in the handkerchief the ring you just borrowed. Remove your hand, taking away with it the borrowed ring which you can drop into your pocket for later use. You then ask someone to

come up and tie with a cord a tight knot around the handkerchief so that the ring cannot be gotten out. You now throw another handkerchief over the ring and handkerchief; and, bending one of the ends of the wire ring through the knotted



FTG. 53

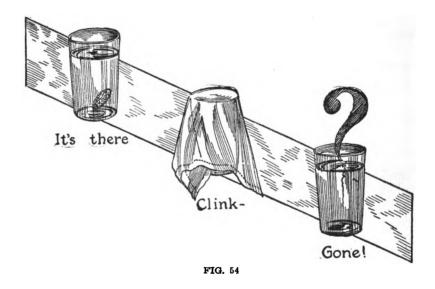
handkerchief, work it out and palm it under cover of the other handkerchief. It is then well to rub the spot from which you removed the wire ring so that the little hole will not be noticed. You can now make the other ring appear from someone's pocket or clothing by carrying it in the palm.

VANISHING COIN FROM GLASS

Effect. A borrowed half dollar is covered with a handkerchief. One of the audience holds it over a glass of water and at the command of the performer drops it into the glass, where it is distinctly heard to fall. Upon removing the handkerchief the coin has completely disappeared. (See Figure 54.)

Secret. Take an ordinary drinking glass with a flat bottom and partly fill it with water. Conceal the celluloid disc, which

you can easily make for this trick, in the right hand. Borrow a half dollar and allow it to be marked. Now borrow an ordinary handkerchief and take the coin in the same hand in which you have the celluloid disc concealed and place it under the handkerchief. Under cover of this exchange the disc for the coin and conceal the coin where the celluloid disc was and leave the celluloid disc in the handkerchief, asking the spectator to



hold the coin (celluloid disc) over the glass of water. Tell him to drop the coin (celluloid disc) which makes the same sound as the half dollar would. You now remove the handkerchief and the "coin" has vanished. The water may be poured out of the glass and yet the disc will not fall away. The real coin can be produced in any way that suits the fancy of the performer.

THE FLYING HANDKERCHIEF

Effect. Into a glass vase or a large deep tumbler are placed three handkerchiefs, a red, a white and a blue. Over the glass vase is placed a cone of paper corresponding in shape. The performer now removes from the paper cylinder at the open end the red handkerchief. This he mysteriously changes into two. To the right and left of the vase he places two ordinary tumblers which he covers with the multiplied handkerchiefs. At command, the handkerchiefs in the cylinder, that is the red and blue, are made to mysteriously pass, one into each glass.

The paper is now removed and to the astonishment of all no handkerchiefs are to be seen in the vase. (See Figure 55.)



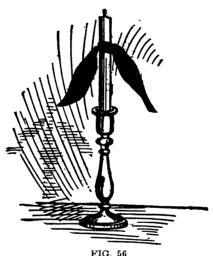
FIG. 55

Secret. Prepare a celluloid cylinder, made out of thin celluloid glued together to exactly and snugly fit inside the glass vase or large tumbler. When you have made the cylinder of thin celluloid, make a catgut loop over one end of it. Now to prepare for the trick place the celluloid tube inside of the vase (the seam to one side). Stand the vase on the table about three inches from the rear edge. Place two ordinary goblets one on each side of the vase at a distance of say, a foot. Make two metal clips and fasten them to the rear edge of the table just out of sight, each at a point midway between the tumblers and the vase. Roll up

a white handkerchief into the smallest possible compass and place it into the right hand clip and similarly place a blue hand-kerchief in the other clip. Roll the red handkerchief into a little wad and place it beneath the vest, well back toward the hip and on the left side. The red, white and blue handkerchiefs are thrown loosely on the table and a sheet of paper about 8x10 flat, nearby. Now call your audience's attention to the unprepared nature of the articles to be used. With the wand press first the blue, white and lastly the red handkerchiefs into the vase.

Form the sheet of paper into a tube of a size to fit loosely over the vase (the former being marked to allow of its being quickly rolled to the proper size. Fasten it in shape with pins. Drop the tube over the vase. Standing behind the table with the right side to the audience reach down into the open top of the tube and take out the red handkerchief. At the same time with the left hand secretly take possession of the red "vested" handkerchief, face the audience, bring both hands together and multiply the one handkerchief into two. Holding one in each hand drop them on the table to the rear in such a way that each handkerchief drops slightly over the rear edge, one exactly over each clip. Now, cover the two goblets with the red handkerchiefs. Taking up first the right-hand red handkerchief (and under its folds the concealed white one) cover the right goblet with the red and at the same time drop into the goblet the white. "Load" the left hand goblet in the same manner with the blue. Raise the paper tube, to show that the two handkerchiefs are still in place, replace it and state that you will cause the handkerchiefs to leave the vase and to appear in the goblets. Ask one of the spectators to decide as to which goblet shall receive the white handkerchief. If the right hand one is chosen say-"The gentleman wishes the white handkerchief to appear in the goblet on my right" and if the choice is left, say: "The gentleman wishes

the white handkerchief to appear in the goblet on his left," in either case pointing to the goblet holding the white handkerchief. Raise the tube from the vase, gripping the wire loop attached to the top of the celluloid cylinder, and carrying both to the rear edge of the table and about an inch below it, drop the celluloid into the servante, trail the tube a little to the right and let it drop on the table. Raise now the two red handkerchiefs and show that the promised result has taken place.



APPEARING HANDKERCHIEF AND CANDLE TRICK

In this excellent trick an ordinary candle and unprepared candlestick are used. A handkerchief is now borrowed and thrown over the candle. Another colored handkerchief is now taken between the conjurer's hands and made to mysteriously disappear. Upon uncovering the candle the handkerchief that was just made to disappear is found firmly tied around the candle. (See Figure 56.)

Secret. To do this two red handkerchiefs are required, one of which must be prepared by taking a brass ring a little larger than the candle and about ½ inch wide, cut from a piece of brass tubing, around which the handkerchief is tied and sewed. (By drilling a few holes around one of the edges of the ring, the handkerchief may be sewed on securely to it.) The other handkerchief is left unprepared. The only other apparatus necessary is an ordinary unprepared candle and an unprepared candlestick. This candle is placed in the candlestick and made to fit snugly. If it does not, a little paper may be wrapped around the lower end of the candle to hold it firmly in position. After some well chosen introductory remarks, the performer calls attention to the candle in the candlestick and may even offer it for examination.

A handkerchief (unprepared) is now borrowed from the audience and while the handkerchief is being examined to prove that it is absolutely perfect, you secretly secure the prepared handkerchief which is arranged before the performance as follows:

The ends of the handkerchief are tucked inside the ring so that when this is slipped over and down the candle, the handkerchief will be forced out. With the handkerchief prepared as outlined above and while the spectators are looking at the borrowed handkerchief, as has been already stated, you take secret possession of this "fake" thus prepared and palm it in your right hand or between the thumb and the index finger. Then taking the borrowed handkerchief you throw it over the candle in an ordinary manner entirely covering it, but in so doir gyou slip the little brass ring to which the handkerchief is sewed over the candle.

Before the trick commences, it is well to have a pin thrust

through the candle so that the brass ring will only go down half way on the candle.

The performer now states that he will make a marvelous transportation take place, and taking the unprepared handkerchief between his hands he causes it to mysteriously vanish. (Any method may be used for vanishing the handkerchief. We recommend the "Pull" as the most suitable, described elsewhere in this book).

Now when the handkerchief is removed, to the astonishment and the bewilderment of the audience they will find the red handkerchief tied around the candle.

After a little practice any one can work this trick to their entire satisfaction and to the bewilderment of any audience.

NEW DECANTER HANDKERCHIEF APPEARANCE

An ordinary water decanter, perfectly transparent and which can be shown on all sides is exhibited by the performer. If desired, the decanter may be filled with water. It is then set upon the table and a metal or cork stopper placed in the mouth, closing the only possible opening. At a pistol shot instantly in full view of the audience, there appears a beautiful colored hand-kerchief in the very center of the decanter. (See Figure 57.)

A visible appearance of this kind is very spectacular and greatly appreciated by everyone.

Secret. Two things are necessary in performing this trick; 1st, to secure an ordinary decanter which can be purchased at a 10c or 25c store and which should be sent to a glass cutter or optical worker to have a small hole drilled in the bottom of the glass decanter just large enough to permit a good sized thread to pass through. The other necessary part of the trick is to have a metal spinner spin for you a metal stopper which will be hollow on the inside. Or a more simple way is to secure a large cork which you can hollow out, just leaving a shell, but

its appearance to the audience would be a perfectly ordinary one. Now to a very small fine silk handkerchief is tied or sewed in the center a strong very fine black silk thread. Before the performance the colored handkerchief thus prepared is inserted into the stopper. The thread above referred to, which we have told



FIG. 57

you to tie to the center of the handkerchief is run down through the hole in the decanter into the rear leg of the table or any other arrangement which the conjurer may choose.

Enough slack should be left in the thread so that the performer can take the stopper out and it will not draw the handkerchief from the cork. The thread should run off to the side of the stage where an assistant can give it a quick jerk and thus make the handkerchief appear in the decanter before the eyes of the spectators in an instantaneous and mysterious manner, and it will bewilder the audience.

If it is desired to show that there is no hole in the bottle by

pouring water in it, a cork arrangement can be made or in some of the performances you can simply place the thumb or palm of the hand over the hole in the bottom while they are pouring the water in and then pour the water out again. This does away, of course, with the possibility of there being any hole in the bottom of the decanter as the audience might presume. If there should be a desire to change the color of the handkerchief the following effect is unusually fine: The apparatus is first arranged with a colored handkerchief to which is attached the black thread and the thread is run down through the neck of the decanter through the hole in the bottom down through the leg of the table and off to the side. Likewise another thread is attached to another handkerchief which is concealed in the stopper and likewise runs down through the neck of the water bottle down to the bottom and through the leg. This requires two threads to operate the trick. The fact is, however, that the performer removes the stopper and places the handkerchief which is apparently lying on the table without any connection, but which has, as has just been explained, a black thread and a ring attached to it. This is placed inside the decanter and this in turn over the hole in the table. The stopper is then placed in and, at a pistol shot or command from the performer, one handkerchief is drawn into the leg of the table, and the other with the right pull is made to appear in the water bottle.

If the performer does not desire to do the trick in view of the audience, for fear that detection may follow, it is very simple to make a paper cornucopia which is first passed for examination, and place it over the bottle during the desired change.

If the performer merely desires to produce the handkerchief inside the decanter, the effect can be producd without the aid of an assistant if the performer desires, having a hooked pin on the end of the thread and attaching the same to some part of your person. At the word of command give a quick jerk to the thread pulling the handkerchief into the center of the decanter. Or, as some performers have done, tie the end of the thread to a wand and, picking the wand up and commanding the handkerchief to appear, pull away the thread, when the handkerchief will be forced out of its place of concealment with the result already stated.



VANISHING HANDKERCHIEF FROM HAND

Effect. A silk handkerchief is rolled into the closed left hand, being tucked in with the index finger of the right hand. (See Figure 58.)

When the last corner is tucked in, the hand is opened and the handkerchief is found to have mysteriously and completely disappeared.

Secret. A flesh-colored metal finger tip formed to look like the tip of a human finger is used in performing this trick. A strip of colored silk to imitate the corner of a handkerchief is sewed

to the inside of the "tip." Finger tips of this kind may be procured at any magical depot at small expense.

How the Trick Is Worked. The finger tip is placed in a pocket in such a way that it can be gotten at easily. A very good plan is to sew a pocket inside the trousers pocket, just large enough to hold this trick finger tip.

We will assume that the conjurer who is performing this trick has familiarized himself with the well known sleight of hand movement of rolling the handkerchief into a ball between the palms and palming it off with the right hand as he pretends to take it in his left. Suffice it to say for the benefit of those not acquainted with this sleight of hand that the rolling of the handkerchief is accomplished by holding the two upper corners between the palms, which are placed against each other. The performer having his right side toward the audience. The left hand is held still while the right hand makes a circular motion, thus causing the handkerchief to roll itself into a ball which is easily palmed in the right hand as above described.

Thus prepared, the magician shows the handkerchief rolled up into a ball as just described and actually transfers the handkerchief from the right into the left. Immediately withdrawing the right hand and holding it in such a manner as to cause the audience to suspect that it contains something, slipping your hand into your pocket. Immediately a murmur arises, accusing the performer of the fact that he has been caught in the act of smuggling the handkerchief into his pocket. Protesting against this unjust suspicion he, smiling, opens his left hand and the handkerchief is seen there. Shaking it out, he forthwith rolls it up again into a ball and apparently transfers it from the right to the left hand and palms it in the right. Stating at the same time, "To think that I should be accused of smuggling the handkerchief into my pocket," illustrating this by actually putting the right hand into

the pocket and leaving the palmed handkerchief there, at the same time, slipping the tip of his index finger into the secret pocket and securing hold of the fake finger tip, afterwards bringing the right hand away with the "fake" tip on his index finger. Saying that his handkerchief is still in the left, inserting the tip of the finger into the opening of the closed left hand, he leaves the finger tip there, drawing out the little piece of silk. He then pushes back the latter with the right index finger and a moment later he carries the finger tip out with this finger empty. All trace of the handkerchief has mysteriously vanished.

EGG AND HANDKERCHIEF TRICK

The modus operandi of the following trick is different from the one generally used in producing similar results. One egg and one handkerchief are used, borrowed from the audience if possible. One of the committee is asked to write his name on an ordinary egg. This is placed by the spectator in the glass held by the performer.

A borrowed handkerchief is now placed over the glass, after which it is given to the spectator to hold. The performer now stepping among the audience borrows a lady's handkerchief and causes it to disappear between his hands, the marked egg taking its place. When the handkerchief is removed from the glass the real egg is found.

Secret. After having produced a real egg by magical means or otherwise, the conjurer requests someone to write his name on the egg with a pencil. The performer then exhibits a glass tumbler. For this purpose a magical bottomless tumbler is used or an ordinary tumbler can be used after having the bottom cut out. Such a glass appears to the audience to be perfectly unprepared.

The glass is exhibited on the palm of the performer's out-

stretched left hand after which he drops the egg lengthwise into the glass; picking up the glass in which the egg is held by the slight ledge on the inside of the glass, he covers it with a pocket handkerchief. Placing his left hand under the latter, he rattles the egg in the glass to prove it is still there and at the same time allows it to drop out into his left on which he palms it. He now takes the silk handkerchief with his right hand and joins hands up and down and, under cover of these movements, works the handkerchief into the hollow formed by the partly closed second, third and fourth fingers of the left hand.

When the handkerchief has been duly concealed, the conjurer shows the egg, holding it between the first finger and the thumb of the left hand. Next the conjurer transfers the egg to the right hand, immediately giving it for examination; the hand holding the handkerchief grasps the wand. Next, introducing the left (which holds concealed the handkerchief) under the covering handkerchief, he pushes the handkerchief into the glass through the bottom and removing the covering handkerchief shows the borrowed handkerchief has taken the place of the egg.

TABLE STAND AND APPEARING HANDKERCHIEF

Any person may be asked to come forward and put his own handkerchief over the tumbler and his hand on top of the tumbler which is on the stand. Yet upon removing his hand he finds another handkerchief to have appeared inside the goblet. This trick is due entirely to the ingenious construction of the apparatus used, the little table or stand being so prepared that a little plunger is concealed inside the stem and which can be operated by a screw head protruding through a slot on the tube which forms the leg of the stand. So if the handkerchief is tucked down from the top of the table into the hollow metal stand it can be concealed there until it is forced up by the

plunger. The effective part of the trick is that the table top is covered with non-raveling felt and by means of a very sharp razor blade or knife a circular hole is cut, leaving a little hinge



FIG. 59

to one side to hold it in position. If carefully arranged before the performance the top of the table can be shown to be perfect, particularly if the felt has decorations on it. No one would possibly think of there being a hole in the top of the table. An ordinary bottomless glass is used, that is a glass in which the bottom has been cut out or better still a tumbler with a detachable bottom which can be purchased at a magical depot for this purpose. The glass can then not only be filled with water but can actually be passed out for inspection. (See Figure 59.)

This glass is placed on the stand and a handkerchief is thrown over it, and the performer picks up the stand with the covered glass on top of it and steps into the audience. The thumb of his right hand is over the screw head that will allow him to push the plunger up just as some member of the audience is placing his hand over the goblet and holding his hand on top. Any boy can make this apparatus without expense and he will be repaid for his efforts, as it gives a very startling effect.

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